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1992/12/07

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United States Department of State

Washington, D.C. 20520

E9

December 7, 1992

MEMORANDUM

TO: EAP - Ambassador William Clark, Jr.
FROM: EAP/P - Emi Lynn Yamauchi *BY*
SUBJECT: Noon Press Briefing
Spokesman: Richard Boucher

CHINA

Boucher was asked if he had any comment on reports that the U.S. is considering the sale of a supercomputer to China. He read the attached guidance.

CNN's Begleiter asked whether the safeguards Boucher mentioned would apply to uses other than meteorological ones. Boucher replied: "No. The safeguards would apply to the meteorological use of this computer to ensure that the computer is only used for the purposes for which it's exported." "Meteorological purposes?" Begleiter asked. "Yes," said Boucher.

ABC's Wright asked whether China has any supercomputers at present. Boucher responded: "That gets in, somewhat, to the definition of supercomputers. Not that I'm aware of. Not (inaudible -- probably 'in this range')."

Wright asked whether China has any American products such as Cray computers. Boucher said: "You'd have to ask the companies or the Chinese that."

AFP's Charmelot asked whether the U.S. has established that an alleged Chinese sale of M-11 missiles to Pakistan is breaching the MTBR. Boucher answered: "No determinations on that have been made."

Attachment: As stated

EAP/P:KBailes

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EAP Press Guidance
December 7, 1992

CHINA: EXPORT OF SUPERCOMPUTERS

Q: Do you have any comment or details on the reported suspension/cancellation of American supercomputer sales to China?

A:- COMPUTER EXPORTS TO CHINA ARE EVALUATED ON A CASE-BY-CASE BASIS AND ARE SUBJECT TO APPROPRIATE LICENSE CONDITIONS.

- IMPORTANT FACTORS IN DETERMINING WHETHER A LICENSE IS GRANTED INCLUDE WHETHER: (A) THE COMMODITY IS FOR A CIVILIAN END-USE AND A CIVILIAN END-USER; (B) THE COMMODITY IS APPROPRIATE FOR THAT STATED USE; AND (C) REASONABLE SAFEGUARDS TO ALLAY CONCERNS OF DIVERSION OR OTHER NATIONAL SECURITY ISSUES CAN BE APPLIED.
- CRAY RESEARCH CORPORATION HAS APPLIED FOR A LICENSE TO EXPORT A SUPERCOMPUTER TO CHINA'S STATE METEOROLOGICAL ADMINISTRATION. THE SUPERCOMPUTER WOULD BE USED TO IMPROVE WEATHER FORECASTING AND IMPROVE COORDINATION WITH OTHER COUNTRIES' WEATHER STATIONS, WHICH USE CRAY COMPUTERS.
- THE LICENSE APPLICATION IS STILL UNDER CONSIDERATION IN THE INTERAGENCY CONTEXT. THIS APPLICATION INCLUDES A PROPOSAL FOR EXTENSIVE SAFEGUARDS. IF THE USG APPROVES THE SALE, IT WOULD STILL HAVE TO BE COORDINATED WITH OUR PARTNERS IN THE COORDINATING COMMITTEE FOR MULTILATERAL STRATEGIC EXPORT CONTROLS (COCCM).

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